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(19) (CA) **CANADIAN PATENT** (12)

(54) Surround for an Exterior Fitting of a House

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(73) Same as inventor

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602407

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A surround for an exterior fitting of a house. The fitting is mounted on a wall having a finishing surface mounted on a sheathing. The surround has a backing plate to be mounted on the sheathing. An opening in the backing plate receives a fitting. There is a wall extending outwardly from the backing plate to surround the fitting. The backing plate can be attached to the sheathing. A trim plate is received by the backing plate and also has an opening to receive the fitting. The trim plate is received by the wall of the backing plate with a frictional fit.

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A surround for an exterior fitting of a house, the fitting to be mounted on a wall having a finishing surface mounted on a sheathing, the surround comprising;

a backing plate to be mounted on the sheathing and having an opening to receive a fitting and a wall extending outwardly from the backing plate to surround the fitting;

means in the backing plate to permit attachment to the sheathing; and

a trim plate to be received by the backing plate and having an opening to receive the fitting;

means extending from the trim plate to be received by the wall of the backing plate with a frictional fit comprising a plurality of discrete projections formed integrally with said trim plate.

2. A surround as claimed in claim 1 in which the wall extends outwardly from the periphery of the opening in the backing plate.

3. A fitting as claimed in claim 1 in which the means to permit attachment comprises a plurality of openings in the backing plate to receive nails or screws.

4. A surround as claimed in claim 1 in which the projections are positioned at each corner of the opening.
5. A surround as claimed in claim 1 in which the trim plate is formed with a wall to surround the fitting, and extending from the periphery of the opening to receive the fitting.
6. A surround as claimed in claim 1 made of high density polyethylene.

CLAIMS SUPPORTED BY THE
SUPPLEMENTARY DISCLOSURE

7. A surround for an exterior fitting of a house, the fitting to be mounted on a wall having a finishing surface mounted on a sheathing, the surround comprising:

a backing plate to be mounted on the sheathing and having an opening adapted to align with a fitting;

means in the backing plate to permit attachment to the sheathing;

a trim plate to be received by the backing plate;

attachment means comprising complementary hook members and engagement members formed on either of said backing plate and said trim plate adapted to connect said plates together.

8. A surround as claimed in claim 7 in which each of said engagement members includes a plurality of stop surfaces each capable of holding said hook member to allow for telescopic adjustment of the distance between said backing plate and said trim plate.

9. A surround as claimed in claim 7 including a wall extending outwardly from the periphery of the opening in the backing plate formed with said engagement members.

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10. A surround as claimed in claim 9 in which the trim plate is formed with a wall adapted to interfit with said wall of said backing plate, said trim plate wall being formed with projecting surfaces to define hook members adapted to engage with said engagement members on said backing plate.

11. A surround as claimed in claim 7 made of high density polyethylene.

12. A surround as claimed in claim 7 in which said trim plate comprises a grill surface to cover said backing plate opening.

13. A surround as claimed in claim 7 in which the means in the backing plate to permit attachment to the sheathing comprises a plurality of openings in the backing plate to receive nails or screws.

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This invention relates to a surround for an exterior fitting of a house.

Exterior fittings for houses, typically electrical outlets and lights are common. Many North American houses are fitted with siding, typically of wood, aluminum or polyvinyl chloride. An opening must be cut through the siding so that the light or fitting can be joined up to an electrical source.

These openings through the siding can be untidy. In many cases the person installing the siding does not have the fitting to be installed and, in any event, may not be qualified to install that fitting. In the rare event that the opening is cut after the siding has been installed there is a difficult problem of cutting an opening in a flat surface and aligning that opening correctly with the wiring beneath. As a result many installations of exterior fittings in houses are of an apparently poor standard of workmanship. They are a poor fit around the fitting. This is not only unsightly but also means that dirt, water and insects can get into the structure of the house. Drafts are also possible.

The present invention seeks to avoid the above problems and to provide a fitting that eliminates drafts, water, dirt



and insect ingress. In addition, the invention provides a surround for an exterior fitting that is neat in appearance.

Accordingly, the present invention is a surround for an exterior fitting of a house, the fitting to be mounted on a wall having a finishing surface mounted on a sheathing, the
5 surround comprising; a backing plate to be mounted on the sheathing and having an opening to receive a fitting and a wall extending outwardly from the backing plate to surround the fitting; means in the backing plate to permit attachment
10 to the sheathing; and a trim plate to be received by the backing plate and having an opening to receive the fitting; means extending from the trim plate to be received by the wall of the backing plate with a frictional fit comprising a plurality of discrete projections formed integrally with said
15 trim plate.

Aspects of the invention are illustrated, merely by way of example, in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is an exploded view of a surround according to the present invention including sheathing for a finishing
20 surface and an electrical fitting;

Figure 2 illustrates the embodiment of Figure 1 installed; and

Figure 3 illustrates a further embodiment of the invention.

The drawings show a surround 8 for an exterior fitting of a house. The fitting, as shown in Figure 1 includes an electrical box 10 and a duplex receptacle 12 with a hinged cover 14 for the receptacle. All these components are
5 entirely conventional. The receptacle 12 is mounted on a wall and a stud 16 of that wall is shown. There is sheathing 18 mounted to the stud, usually by nailing. A finishing surface in the form of siding 20 is shown mounted in Figure 2. Building paper 22 is shown in Figure 2. Sheathing 18 has
10 an opening 24 to receive receptacle 12.

The surround 8 of the invention comprises a backing plate 26 having a flange 27 mounted on the sheathing 18 and having an opening 28 to receive the receptacle 12. A rectangular opening 28 is shown in all the drawings. There
15 is a wall 30 extending outwardly from the flange 27 of backing plate 26 to surround the receptacle 12. The wall 30 is continuous. Flange 27 is provided with openings 32 to receive nails 34 so that it may be mounted to the sheathing 18. Screws may, of course, also be used.

20 There is a trim plate 36 to be received by the backing plate 26. Trim plate 36 has a flange 37 with an opening 38 to receive the receptacle 12. There are means extending from the trim plate 36 to be received by the wall 30 of the backing plate 26 with a frictional fit. In Figures 1 and 2
25 those means comprise a plurality of discrete projections 40

on the trim plate arranged at each corner of the opening 38.

To install the embodiment of Figures 1 and 2 during the construction of the house the sheathing 18 is cut to accept the outlet box 10. The outlet box 10 is mounted to the stud 5 16 so that box 10 protrudes about one half inch above the sheathing surface. If desired the duplex receptacle 12 may be installed at this time.

The backing plate 26 of the surround 8 is positioned over the electrical box 10 and secured with nails 34 using 10 the openings.

The exterior finish of the wall is then applied. In the illustrated embodiment building paper 22 may be applied and then the siding 20 is cut, as shown in Figure 1, so that the siding ends fit in a channel 42 (see Figure 2) defined 15 between the flanges 27 and 37 of the backing plate 26 and the trim plate 36, that is abutting the wall 30 of the backing plate. The trim plate 36 is then placed in the interior of the wall 30, where it is a snap, frictional fit. As shown in Figure 2 the result is neat in appearance and offers a 20 weatherproof, insect proof, and dirt proof surround for the receptacle 12.

Figure 3 illustrates a variation of the invention. The same reference numbers are used for common parts. The back

plate 26 is as shown in Figure 1, for all practical purposes, but the embodiment of Figure 3 has a different trim plate. It is more appropriate for mounting, for example, lighting fixtures which, typically, have round base.

5 The trim plate 136 in Figure 3 is provided with a rectangular wall 137 which is a snap, frictional fit within the wall 30 of the backing plate. The trim plate 136 has a central opening 138 defined by a wall 140 that extends rearwardly from the periphery of that opening 138. However,
10 wall 140 does not have any action in locating the trim plate 136; it merely acts to surround the base of, for example, a lamp fitting.

 The reverse of the above fit may apply. That is wall 30 can be a snap fit within wall 137.

15 The device of the present invention may be made of any suitable plastic, high density polyethylene is appropriate.

 Although siding is discussed, the invention is equally appropriate for buildings finished with stucco or veneer finish, for example, a brick veneer finish.

SUPPLEMENTARY DISCLOSURE

A further embodiment of the present invention is provided. The further embodiment provides a surround for an exterior fitting of a house, the fitting to be mounted on a wall having a finishing surface mounted on a sheathing, the
5 surround comprising:

a backing plate to be mounted on the sheathing and having an opening adapted to align with a fitting;

means in the backing plate to permit attachment to the
10 sheathing;

a trim plate to be received by the backing plate;

attachment means comprising complementary hook members and engagement members formed on either of said backing plate and said trim plate adapted to connect said plates together.

15 The attachment means of this further embodiment allows for easy telescopic adjustment of the distance between the backing plate and the trim plate.

This additional embodiment is illustrated, merely by way of example, in the following drawings in which:

Figure 4 is an exploded view of the surround showing a grill cover trim plate and the attachment means of the present embodiment; and

Figure 5 is a section view through the attachment means of the present invention showing the telescoping ability of the connection.

An additional embodiment of the present invention is shown in Figures 4 and 5. This new embodiment employs a backing plate 226 adapted to be mounted to a sheathing surface. The backing plate is provided with an opening 228 adapted to align with a fitting mounted in the sheathing. As in previous embodiments, backing plate 226 can be attached to the sheathing by nails or screws. A trim plate 236 is provided for attachment over the backing plate. In the illustrated embodiment, trim plate 236 is a grill cover adapted for fitting over a backing plate that has been aligned over a ventilation duct or the like. Obviously, the trim plates of the other embodiments can also be used once suitably modified to work with the attachment means of the present embodiment.

In the present embodiment attachment means for connecting the trim plate to the backing plate comprise complementary hook members 238 and engagement members 240 formed on the trim plate and the backing plate, respectively.

5 It is apparent that the positions of these members can be switched.

Backing plate 226 is formed with an outwardly extending wall 227 on which engagement members 240 are formed. Each engagement member comprises a portion of the inner wall
10 surface that is formed into a plurality of stop surfaces 229, best shown in Figure 5 which is a detailed view of the lower attachment means of the present embodiment.

Trim plate 236 is also formed with a wall 239 that is dimensioned to interfit within wall 227 of backing plate 226.
15 Hook members 238 are created by forming a projection 244 adjacent an edge of wall 239. As best shown in Figure 5, each stop surface 229 is formed to allow for locking engagement with a hook member. The plurality of stop surfaces allow for telescopic adjustment of the distance
20 between the backing plate and the trim plate. Trim plate 236 can be set at a first position 250 indicated by dashed lines in Figure 5 or moved inwardly in discrete steps to a final position 252. Hook member 238 engaging against stop surfaces 229 hold the trim plate in position at intermediate positions

The illustrated embodiment shows pairs of upper and lower hook members and engagement members. Obviously, any number of pairs of hook and engagement members can be formed in order to connect the trim plate and backing plate together.

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Preferably, wall 239 of trim plate 236 is formed with triangular bracing members 255 to reinforce the wall and ensure that hook member 238 is pressed into firm contact with an aligned engagement member.

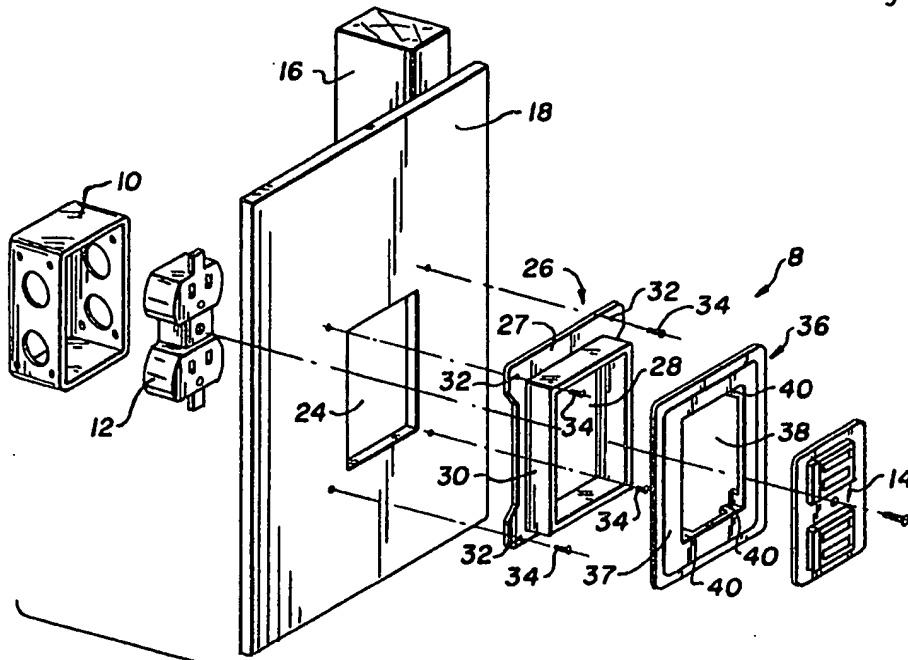


Fig. 1.

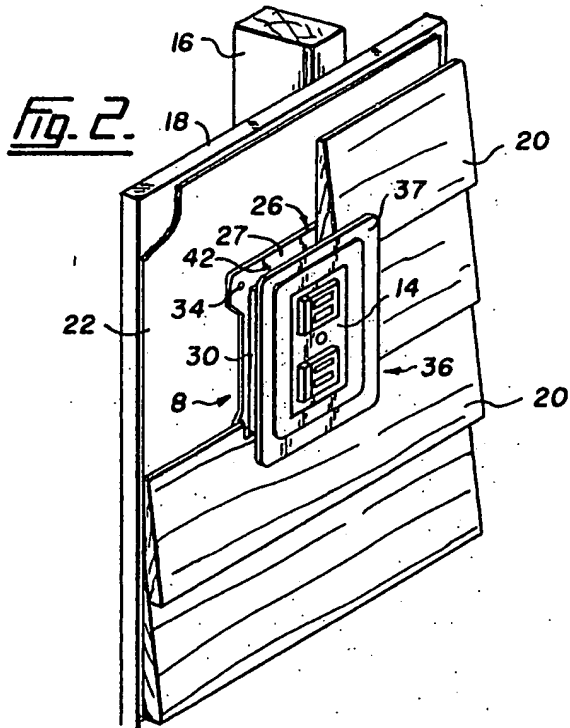
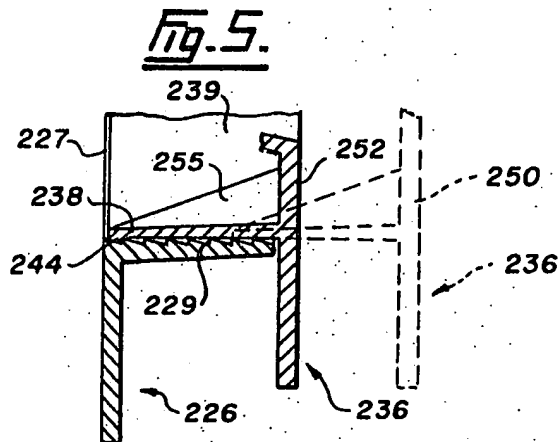
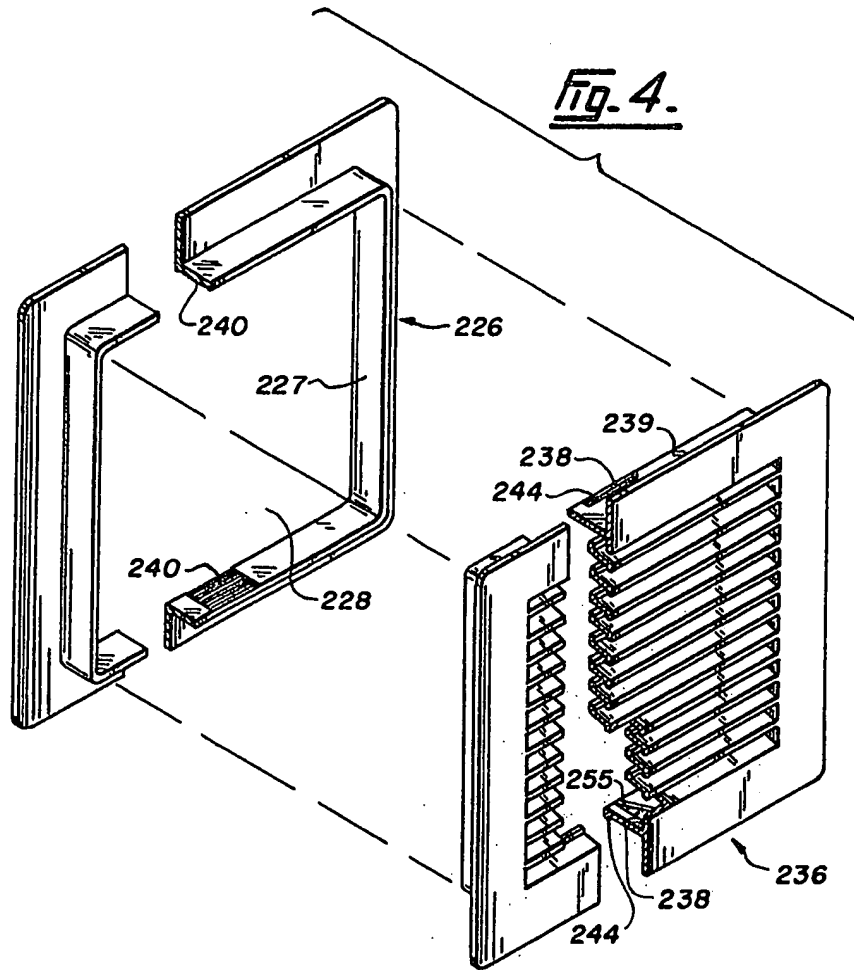


Fig. 2.

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